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For Immediate Release
September 7, 2005

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Legislation will bring 750 jobs to Lansing area

LANSING – Legislation that would bring 750 jobs to Delta Township was passed today by the Senate, sponsors Sen. Patty Birkholz and Rep. Rick Jones announced.

House Bill 4915 would allow the Ryder Company, a key manufacturing supplier, to qualify for a manufacturing tax abatement to locate a facility near the new GM plant in Eaton County.

“Support centers are vital to manufacturing companies and it is very important for GM to have Ryder nearby to obtain supplies in a timely manner,” said Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township. “We also need this state-of-the-art plant as it will create jobs and boost our local economy.”

Currently, only manufacturing companies are eligible for tax abatements. The legislation would allow Logistical Optimization Centers - sorting and distribution centers that supply materials and parts to manufacturing companies - to also qualify.

The Ryder Company has been working with General Motors to become a key sequencer and supplier for the new plant on Davis Highway, but hesitated when they learned they were ineligible for a \$290,000 tax abatement. Ryder plans to spend \$28 million refurbishing the old GM engine plant at Canal and Mt. Hope and constructing additional space.

“I am fighting for every possible job for Michigan against Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and the rest of the world,” said Jones, R-Grand Ledge. “This is why this abatement is vital not only to our community, but the entire state.”

Birkholz and Jones hope this legislation will encourage other businesses to build new facilities around the state to provide jobs and help local economies.

The bill now goes to the governor.

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